

“(c) ISSUANCE OF FINAL AMENDMENTS.—Not later than 150 days after publication of such amendment, and after notice and opportunity for public comment, the Secretary shall issue the amendments to the plan, as described in subsection (a), if the Secretary has reason to believe that such amendments will tend to effectuate the declared policy of this subtitle [see Short Title of 1990 Amendment note set out under section 2611 of this title].

“(d) REFERENDUM.—Not later than 24 months after the date of issuance of such amendments to the plan, the Secretary shall conduct a referendum among producers and importers who, during a representative period determined by the Secretary, have been engaged in the production or importation of potatoes. The amendments shall be continued only if the Secretary determines that the amendments to the plan have been approved by a majority of the total number of producers and importers voting in the referendum.

“(e) REFUNDS.—The board shall—

“(1) establish an escrow account to be used for assessment refunds, and place funds in such account in accordance with paragraph (2) during the period beginning on the effective date of the amendments to the plan issued under subsection (c) and ending on the date of the referendum on the amendments to the plan;

“(2) place in the account established under paragraph (1), from assessments collected under the plan during the period referred to in paragraph (1), an amount equal to the product obtained by multiplying the total amount of assessments collected during such period by 10 percent;

“(3) subject to paragraphs (4), (5), and (6), provide that for the period referred to in paragraph (1) any producer or importer shall have the right to demand and receive from the board a one-time refund of assessments collected from such producer or importer during such period if—

“(A) such producer or importer is responsible for paying such assessments;

“(B) such producer or importer does not support the program established under the plan; and

“(C) the amendments to the plan to eliminate provisions for refunds of assessments are not approved pursuant to a referendum conducted under subsection (d);

“(4) require such demand to be made in accordance with regulations, on a form, and within a time period prescribed by the board;

“(5) require such refund to be made on submission of proof satisfactory to the board that such producer or importer paid the assessment for which refund is demanded; and

“(6) if the amount in the escrow account required to be established by paragraph (1) is not sufficient to refund the total amount of assessments demanded by all eligible producers and importers under this subsection, prorate the amount of such refunds among all eligible producers and importers who demand such refund.

“(f) TERMINATION.—If such amendments to the plan are not approved, the Secretary shall terminate the amendments and the plan shall continue in effect without the amendments.

“(g) AMENDMENT TO INCLUDE THE 50 STATES.—Notwithstanding any provision of the Act, the Secretary shall, upon request of a producer or a producer organization, issue an amendment to the plan to include the 50 States of the United States. Such amendment shall not be subject to a referendum.”

#### § 2626. Separability

If any provision of this chapter or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this chapter and of the application of such provision to other persons and circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

(Pub. L. 91-670, title III, §317, Jan. 11, 1971, 84 Stat. 2047.)

#### § 2627. Authorization

There is hereby made available from the funds provided by section 612c of this title such sums as are necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter: *Provided*, That no such sum shall be used for the payment of any expenses or expenditures of the board in administering any provision of any plan issued under authority of this chapter.

(Pub. L. 91-670, title III, §318, Jan. 11, 1971, 84 Stat. 2047.)

### CHAPTER 59—RURAL FIRE PROTECTION, DEVELOPMENT, AND SMALL FARM RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

#### SUBCHAPTER I—RURAL COMMUNITY FIRE PROTECTION

Sec.

2651 to 2654. Repealed.

2655. Rural firefighters and emergency personnel grant program.

- (a) In general.
- (b) Use of funds.
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#### SUBCHAPTER II—RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND SMALL FARM RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

2661. Statement of purposes and goals.

2662. Programs authorized.

- (a) Rural development extension programs.
- (b) Rural development research.
- (c) Small farm research programs.
- (d) Small farm extension programs.
- (e) Special grants programs.
- (f), (g) Repealed.
- (h) Rural development extension work.
- (i) Rural health and safety education programs.

2662a. Repealed.

2663. Funding.

- (a) Authorization of appropriations.
- (b) Distributions.
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- (d) Administration of programs.
- (e) Development of plans of work and budgets by eligible institutions.
- (f) Availability; budgets and accounts.
- (g) Financing of programs at other than cooperating institutions.

2664. Cooperating colleges and universities.

- (a) Program administration.
- (b) Eligibility for participation.
- (c) Designation of official for program coordination.
- (d) Appointment of advisory council for program administration; eligibility, membership, etc.

2665. Withholding funds.

2666. Definitions.

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2668. Omitted.

2669. Pilot projects for production and marketing of industrial hydrocarbons and alcohols from agricultural commodities and forest products.

- (a) Formulation and execution of program.
- (b) Loan guarantees.
- (c) Conditions.
- (d) Long-term contracts to supply agricultural commodities to loan recipients.